



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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January 29, 1988
RP:0085

Environmental Permits Branch
Environmental Protection and
Health Services Division
Department of Health
AMELCO Building, 3rd Floor
645 Halekauwila Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Sir:

SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
(87-EP-WQC-10)
Kawela Bay
Kahuku, Oahu

The above cited application relates to a request to dredge silt from Kawela Bay, divert Kawela Stream into the West Main Drain, construct new drainage outlet structures at the terminus of East and West Main Drains, construct an overflow drain connecting Punahoolapa Marsh to East Main Drain, and widen the existing trapezoidal channels in both East and West Main Drains. The Environmental Center conducted a review of the Public Notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PODCO) for the above referenced project with the assistance of James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit; Clifford Smith, Botany; Walington Yee, and Nancy Kanyuk, Environmental Center. In the course of this review, the following comments pertinent to water quality issues were cited:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cooperative Fishery Program in the Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, has made some specific suggestions regarding the design of stream channelization projects in order to enhance the survival of the native diadromous fish. These included recommendations that all drainage channels should have a low, small central channel within the main channel. This would assure that low stream flows would be diverted into this smaller area thus permitting the fish to use the stream. Has this design feature been considered in the design of the outlets?

We note that the applicant has requested permission to "improve" the outlets of both the West and East Main Drains, to dredge silt from Kawela Bay and "authorization to maintain" the new drains, outlets, weir and the Bay. Certain controls are cited to be imposed during the improvement. What controls will be required during the longer term "maintenance"

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operations to minimize environmental damage and in particular, what "maintenance" will be permitted in the Bay?

The dredged material is to be placed at an upland dewatering site. Will any runoff be permitted to enter the Bay? The public notice states that a weir will prevent salt water intrusion into Punahoolapa Marsh. Have the weir and drain been designed to handle drainage from the marsh as well as prevent drainage to the marsh from the sea? In general, the drainage issue is not well addressed and should be considered prior to construction of the various new outlets and structures. Will the East main drain channel result in damage to primary dunes in the area? We were pleased to note that pedestrian movement and littoral drift, if any, will not be obstructed along the shoreline.

In addition to these comments, we would like to add that since the sedimentation in the Southeast corner of the Bay is a result of naturally occurring circulation patterns, the proposed dredging will not only be a small improvement but a temporary one as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute comments on this public notice.

Yours truly,



John T. Harrison
Environmental Coordinator

cc: L. Stephen Lau
James Parrish
Clifford Smith
Nancy Kanyuk